

they have forgotten. Why they take so much of time to respond? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, by this method, you are denying the opportunity of raising issues in the Zero Hour to other hon. Members.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call Shri K. Muraleedharan.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, I would like to raise this submission to draw the attention of the House to the Strike Notice issued by the employees of the Passport Office, Calicut. The proposed strike is not for any kind of demand of the employees. It is to draw the attention of the concerned authority to the pathetic condition of the Passport office.

In order to clear the files, the staff of this office has to work 12 hours a day and even in holidays. Due to the lack of space inside the building the bundles of applications are lying everywhere in the office including in the office room of the Regional Passport Officer. The proposal of shifting the passport office to a large building is pending since a long time.

The strike which was likely to begin 20.11.1991 was postponed due to my personal request to the employees. It is requested that the Union Government may take immediate steps to shift the office to a larger building and staff strength may be increased. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a list. I cannot deviate from the list.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, Shri P.C.Thomas, the sole Member in the Lok Sabha belonging to Kerala Congress-M has started Satyagraha in front of Parliament House at its main entrance from this morn-

ing. His fast is to highlight the serious crisis faced by farmers in Kerala due to steep fall in price of natural rubber. I would urge the Leader of the House that the matter may be taken up with the appropriate authority or the Minister, or he may just respond to the situation for which Mr. Thomas has undertaken *satyagraha*. I am highlighting this issue because it is a very serious issue in Kerala (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to know from the hon. Members whether we are involved in a discussion. This is Zero Hour. Every individual Member, by sending a letter about what he feels is very important, gets his name listed and according to the list we shall have to call the names of the Members. There cannot be a discussion.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want the matter to be discussed, then there are other ways and means to bring the matter on the agenda. You give a notice and when the matter comes on the agenda, then you can discuss it threadbare...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that Shri Thomas is sitting before the Parliament House. This matter has been brought to the notice of everybody through Mr. Ahmed. The purpose has been served. So far as other things are concerned, it is up to us to persuade the concerned Minister and to see that the matter is squared up. If you want that the matter should be discussed agencies like Regional Provident Fund Office, Employees State Insurance Corporation etc., to get registered with them and they demand huge amounts as penalties from them.

Since these are cottage industries and there is no regular employment as such, they

should not be penalised like this. The Government should immediately intervene and instruct the concerned State Governments to desist these bodies to keep away from these cottage industries, like KVIC and its branches. Instead, these agencies should try to render support to these industries.

SHRI BHOGNDR A JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tomorrow the Prime Minister of our friendly and fraternal country, Nepal, is coming here. Nature, history, culture, language and even blood have bound us together. For the last few decades - I am talking of our side - we have been dealing with Nepal at administrative and sometimes even at political level as if it is tit for tat. I simply want to stress upon our Government that we must treat Nepal in a friendly and fraternal manner realising very well, as we do, that are many problems which cannot be solved unilaterally on the floor of the House, you can employ the avenues kept open in the Rules of Procedure. That we can always do. Now I am calling Mr. Vandayar.

SHRI TARIT TOPDAR: You ask the concerned Minister to make a statement, Sir.....(*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: On a point of order, Sir.....(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: During Zero Hour there is no point of order, it is known. We are nearing one o'clock now. If we deviate from the list, then we will not be doing justice to those who have taken the pains of going to the office and getting their names listed. So, let us have some patience.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, in view of the fact that the hon. Member is sitting on *satyagraha*, the Chair may direct at least the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to respond to it, now or later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ahamed,

you have been a Minister, whenever such a matter came to your notice, certainly you rushed to the spot to solve the problem. The Treasury Benches are also equally anxious to solve the problem.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the Commerce Minister.

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission's units set up under the direct supervision of the Government are being harassed by various.. Particularly the issue of harnessing of river waters, construction of multi-purpose projects, trade tariffs etc. should be taken up. We have to take into account the susceptibility and the sensitivity of the younger and small neighbour - Nepal- and keeping that in view all these issues must be sorted out. The present Government, the Prime Minister must - the Leader of the House is sitting here - take into account all these aspects and definite agreement should be arrived at on the issue of multi-purpose dams over river Kosi which alone will generate 33 K.W. of hidel power. Agreements must be finalised about 'Karnali', Pancheswar and Bhagmati. In the year 1981 the project reports were sent. But till now the agreement has not been arrived at. I think that both the countries are suffering. In the mutual interest of both the countries all these agreements should be finalised and there should be no pinpricks, or tit-for-tat attitude. I am sure this House welcomes our fraternal neighbour Nepal.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief. I am thankful that you have honoured your commitment. I wanted to raise this issue yesterday because the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was sitting here. This pertains to a serious matter concerning my constituency, Lakshadweep. You had no occasion to visit. It is a no-industry area. There are nearly 800-